

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 16-18, 20, 22, 23-26, 29, 30 and 39 are now pending. Of these pending claims, claims 1, 8, 13, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26 and 39 have been amended.

In the Office Action claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 16-18, 22-25, 29 and 39 were again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by EPO 0 744 788 A1 (Cauderay et al.). Claims 11, 13, 14, 20 and 30 were again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cauderay et al. in view of U.S. 2,423,627 (Tinnerman '627). Claim 26 has again been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cauderay et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly distinguish the claimed invention over the prior art; namely, the band shaped, electrically conducting contact element includes at least one resilient, electrically conducting contact protrusion **unitary** therewith.

It is believed the rejection of claim 1 and the dependant claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and the rejection of the dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are overcome by the foregoing amendment. While it is understood the Official Action of July 23, 2001 has been made Final and further amendments to the claims are not a matter of right, it is respectfully requested the above amendments be entered since they do not substantially shift the nature of the issues regarding patentability nor do such changes warrant a further search on the part of the Examiner.

Claim 13 has been rewritten into independent format and likewise includes the amendment made to claim 1.

Regarding the amendments to the remaining claims, these changes are relatively minor and have been made for purposes of form in order to overcome the rejection of claims 8 and 26 under Section 112, second paragraph and the objection to claims 8, 20, 22-24 and 39.

The disclosure was objected to for the various informalities noted in the official Action. Applicant has attached hereto a Substitute Specification correcting all the informalities noted in the Official Action and placing the specification in idiomatic English. A marked up copy of the original specification showing the changes made in red ink is attached. No new matter has been added. Entry of the Substitute Specification is respectfully requested.

The abstract of disclosure has been corrected in the manner required. A marked up copy of the changes made to the original abstract is not attached; however it is believed a marked up copy is not necessary since the new abstract essentially corresponds to claim 1 as amended above.

All non-elected claims have been cancelled.

Lastly, because certain non-English language references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed February 11, 2000 have not been considered by the Examiner, Applicant submits the following concise explanations of relevance in order that the references be considered. DE 41 24 968 A1

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discloses an electrical conductor arrangement comprising several conductor sections wherein each conductor section includes a cable protection tube made from an insulating material, especially plastics, which is inserted within the cable protection tube. The cable protection tube includes an electrically conducting metallic shield on which an electrically conducting protection layer is disposed. The electrical shield is a metal foil, especially a copper foil which is surrounded by a sheath made from an electrically conducting plastic. DE 22 25 060 discloses a coupling hose comprising an elastic sheath which is made of rubber and into which electrical conductors 2 are imbedded. The hose has a hollow interior for directing pressurized air to machines or the like.

In view of the above, it is believed the application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of such is requested.

A Notice of Appeal together with the appropriate fee has been filed as separate paper in order to maintain this application pending so that a favorable action can be made by the Examiner following appropriate review.

A one month extension of time is also requested. Please debit Deposit Account No. 19-2105 in the amount of \$55.00 in payment of the government fee required to extend the due date from October 23,2001 to November 23,2001. Small entity status has been previously established by filing of an appropriate declaration.

It is believed that no other fee is due; however, should that determination be incorrect, charge the deficiencies to Deposit

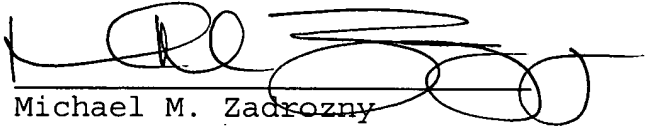
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Account No. 19-2105 and notify the undersigned in due course.

Should the Examiner have any questions, she is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michael M. Zadrozny  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 30,985

SHLESINGER, ARKWRIGHT & GARVEY LLP  
3000 South Eads Street  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  
(703) 684-5600  
kys/sdj

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1.(twice amended) A device for providing electrical contact to an outer conductor of a coaxial cable, the outer conductor having bare segments, said device comprising:

a) a base structure adapted to be tensioned around a coaxial cable, said base structure provided with an interior surface and an exterior surface;

b) sealing lips operatively associated with said base structure and extending from said interior surface thereof, said sealing lips for providing a seal between said base structure and a coaxial cable when said base structure is tensioned therearound;

c) a band shaped, electrically conducting contact element attached to said base structure, said band shaped, electrically conducting contact element including at least one resilient, electrically conducting contact protrusion [ integral ] unitary therewith and biased to extend beyond said sealing lips so that when said base structure is tensioned around a coaxial cable said resilient, electrically conducting contact protrusion will rest against the bare segments of the coaxial cable and provide electrical contact therewith.

8.(twice amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, and wherein said base structure is at least one of a band-shaped or [ plat-

shaped ] plate-shaped contact element constructed from electrically conducting material.

13.(twice amended) A device for providing electrical contact to an outer conductor of a coaxial cable, the outer conductor having bare segments, said device comprising:

a) a base structure adapted to be tensioned around a coaxial cable, said base structure provided with an interior surface and an exterior surface;

b) sealing lips operatively associated with said base structure and extending from said interior surface thereof, said sealing lips for providing a seal between said base structure and a coaxial cable when said base structure is tensioned therearound;

c) a band shaped, electrically conducting contact element attached to said base structure, said band shaped, electrically conducting contact element including at least one resilient, electrically conducting contact protrusion unitary therewith and biased to extend beyond said sealing lips so that when said base structure is tensioned around a coaxial cable said resilient, electrically conducting contact protrusion will rest against the bare segments

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of the coaxial cable and provide electrical contact therewith; and

[ Device as claimed in claim 1 and wherein ]

d) said at least one resilient, electrically conducting contact protrusion consists of a blade projecting away from said base structure interior surface.

20. (twice amended) Device as claimed in claim 16 and  
[ wherein ] further comprising:

a) additional resilient electrically conducting contact  
[ protrusion ] protrusions, said additional resilient electrically  
conducting contact protrusions are [ provided and ] mounted in a  
mutually spaced manner and in [ the ] a circumferential direction  
of said base structure and in alignment along [ one ] a single  
circumferential line thereof.

22. (twice amended) Device as claimed in claim 16 and wherein  
said base structure is integral and circumferentially open and  
includes first and second opposite ends each of which [ a ] are  
provided with respective brackets [ which ] that are connectable.

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23. (twice amended) Device as claimed in claim 22 and wherein said respective brackets are adapted to be connected to each other [ by means of ] with screws.

24. (twice amended) Device as claimed in claim 1 and wherein said base structure includes an elastic part , said elastic part having a surface coextensive with said base structure interior surface and adapted for connection to said band shaped, electrically conducting contact element.

26 (twice amended) Device as claimed in claim 24 and wherein said elastic part is [ an elastomer, in particular ] formed from a thermoplastic elastomer.

39. (twice amended) Device as claimed in claim 1 and further including sealing surfaces , said sealing surfaces consisting of mutually facing interior surfaces of cooperating bracket members, said cooperating bracket members extending from said base member and at least one of made of an elastic material or adapted to sandwich an elastic sealing element therebetween when in an [ assembly ] assembled position.